

8. Kuchamancity Nagaur
9. Nathdawara Rajasmand
10. Suratgarh Sriganganagar

STD at Sojat has been planned during 1992-93

There is no proposal to provide STD facility at Jaitaran during 1992-93, due to non-availability of transmission media.

### **Impact of Decontrol of Steel In Construction Activities**

4129. SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review its policy of decontrolling of steel on selective basis as the expected increase of steel price from rupees fifteen hundred to rupees three thousand per tonne would adversely affect the construction activities all over the country, especially in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the steps contemplated by the Government to provide employment to the construction labourers; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Deregulation of iron and steel announced on 16.1.1992 is not expected to affect the construction industry adversely. Instead, deregulation would increase efficiency and would provide the requisite environment for creation of new capacities in the private sector, for meeting the increasing requirements of the future.

### **Setting up of Steel Plants in Orissa**

4130. SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1141 on November 28, 1991 regarding setting up of steel plants in Orissa with private collaboration and state the details of memorandum of understanding signed between the parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): The Government of Orissa has initiated that it has sponsored a public limited company, Kalinga Steels (India) Ltd. and has on 1st November, 1991, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Dr. Swaraj Paul of the Caparo Group of the United Kingdom to set up an integrated steel plant at Daitari in Orissa. As per the MOU:-

(i) Kalinga Steels Ltd. is expected to be in the private sector with full support from the Government of Orissa.

(ii) The Caparo Group with its associates, in consultation with the Government of Orissa, will form the Board of Management of Kalinga Steels.

(iii) Caparo will arrange to evaluate the different technology options.

(iv) Caparo will arrange a financing package including foreign currency and rupee components.

(v) Both parties agree to start work on this project immediately. The MOU will be appropriately expanded, modified and detailed into an agreement in due course.

The State Government has informed

that the techno-economic viability of the project is under examination by the Caparo Group. They expect the production to be about 3 million tonnes per annum. However, the cost of the steel plant and its expected date of completion has yet to be firmed up by the promoters.

#### **Rally by Journalist and Non-Journalists**

4131. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:  
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR  
PATEL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the rally of journalist and non-journalist held on December 24, 1991 at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the steps Government have taken on their demands?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRJA VYAS):  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to Press reports, the demands were:

- (i) setting up of a parliamentary committee to look into all the labour laws concerning newspaper industry.
- (ii) Maintenance of the independent character of the Navbharat Times.
- (iii) Abolition of the contract system in newspapers and other publications and the regularisation of the services of those working on contract.

(iv) Steps to end the 'onslaught' of managements on the freedom of the press.

(c) The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting have not received any representation/memorandum about demands. However, the aforesaid demands have been noted from press reported. As regards grievances about labour matters, specific grievances will have to be taken by the aggrieved parties in the relevant forum as per applicable labour laws. Complaints regarding violation of freedom of press can also be taken up with the Press Council of India.

#### **Disinvestment of Shares of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited**

4132. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have disinvested about eight per cent shares of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.

(b) if so, the details thereof with reasons; and

(c) its repercussions on Corporate Sector for basic telephone services?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Government have disinvested 20 per cent shares of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. in favour of Public Sector financial/investment institutions, mutual funds and merchant banks by end of February, 1992.

(c) It has no repercussions on provision of basic telephone services.